

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 23-43. The claims are as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An access circuit structure for selectively providing an externally accessible terminal with access to each of a plurality of circuit wells fabricated in a semiconductor substrate and isolated from each other, the access circuit structure comprising for each of the circuit wells:

a first transistor fabricated in a well formed in the semiconductor substrate that is isolated from the circuit wells, the first transistor having a first source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the externally accessible terminal and to the well, a second source-drain region fabricated in the well, and a gate electrode fabricated between the first and second source-drain regions of the first transistor and coupled to receive a first select signal for the respective circuit well, the first transistor being fabricated in the well in a manner that causes a first diode to be formed between the source and drain regions of the first transistor; and

a second transistor fabricated in a well formed in the semiconductor substrate that is isolated from the circuit wells, the second transistor having a first source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the second source-drain region of the first transistor, a second source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the well and to a respective one of the circuit wells, and a gate electrode fabricated between the first and second source-drain regions of the second transistor and coupled to receive a second select signal for the respective circuit well, the second transistor being fabricated in the well in a manner that causes a second diode to be formed between the source and drain regions of the second transistor, the second diode being coupled to the first diode in a back-to-back configuration.

2. (Original) The access circuit structure of claim 1 wherein the first select signal and the second select signal comprise a common select signal.

3. (Original) The access circuit structure of claim 1 wherein the well in which the first transistor is fabricated is different from the well in which the second transistor is fabricated.

4. (Original) The access circuit structure of claim 3 wherein the substrate comprises an n-type substrate, and the wells in which the first and second transistors are fabricated and the circuit wells comprise respective p-type wells.

5. (Original) An access circuit for selectively providing an externally accessible terminal with access to each of a plurality of circuit wells fabricated in a semiconductor substrate and isolated from each other, each of the circuit wells having a respective semiconductor circuit fabricated therein, the access circuit comprising for each of the circuit wells:

a first transistor fabricated in a well formed in the semiconductor substrate that is isolated from the circuit wells, the first transistor having a first source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the externally accessible terminal and to the well, a second source-drain region fabricated in the well, and a gate electrode fabricated between the first and second source-drain regions of the first transistor and coupled to receive a first select signal for the respective circuit well, the first transistor being fabricated in the well in a manner that causes a first diode to be formed between the source and drain regions of the first transistor;

a second transistor fabricated in a well formed in the semiconductor substrate that is isolated from the circuit wells, the second transistor having a first source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the second source-drain region of the first transistor, a second source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the well and to a respective one of the circuit wells, and a gate electrode fabricated between the first and second source-drain regions of the second transistor and coupled to receive a second select signal for the respective circuit well, the second transistor being fabricated in the well in a manner that causes a second diode to be formed between the source and drain regions of the second transistor, the second diode being coupled to the first diode in a back-to-back configuration;

a first control circuit for applying the first select signal to the gate electrode of the first transistor responsive to a first access signal, the control circuit comprising:

a shunt transistor having a gate terminal and a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the externally accessible terminal and the gate electrode of the first transistor; and

a control transistor having a gate terminal coupled to receive the first access signal, the control transistor having a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the externally accessible terminal and the gate terminal of the shunt transistor; and

a second control circuit for applying the second select signal to the gate electrode of the second transistor responsive to a second access signal.

6. (Original) The access circuit of claim 5 wherein the semiconductor circuit fabricated in each of the circuit wells comprises a memory circuit.

7. (Original) The access circuit of claim 6 wherein each of the memory circuits comprises a respective dynamic random access memory circuit.

8. (Original) The access circuit of claim 6 wherein each of the memory circuits comprises an array of memory cells.

9. (Original) The access circuit of claim 8 wherein each of the arrays of memory cells comprises an array of dynamic random access memory cells.

10. (Original) The access circuit of claim 5 wherein the second control circuit is identical to the first control circuit.

11. (Original) The access circuit of claim 5 wherein the first control circuit further comprises a first switching transistor having a gate terminal coupled to receive the access signal, and a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between a supply voltage and the gate terminal of the control transistor.

12. (Original) The access circuit of claim 11 wherein the first control circuit further comprises a second switching transistor having a gate terminal coupled to receive a

compliment of the access signal, and a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the supply voltage and the gate terminal of the shunt transistor.

13. (Original) The access circuit structure of claim 5 wherein the well in which the first transistor is fabricated is different from the well in which the second transistor is fabricated.

14. (Original) The access circuit of claim 13 wherein the substrate comprises a p-type substrate, and the wells in which the first and second transistors are fabricated and the circuit wells comprise respective n-type wells.

15. (Original) The access circuit of claim 5 wherein the second control circuit comprises:

a shunt transistor having a gate terminal and a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the externally accessible terminal and the gate electrode of the second transistor; and

a control transistor having a gate terminal coupled to receive the second access signal, the control transistor having a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the externally accessible terminal and the gate terminal of the shunt transistor.

16. (Original) The access circuit of claim 5 wherein the first access signal and the second access signal comprise a common access signal.

17. (Original) In a memory device having a plurality of memory array cores each including a memory array fabricated in a respective memory core well formed in a semiconductor substrate and isolated from each other, a plurality of access circuits each of which selectively couples an externally accessible terminal to a respective one of the memory core wells, each of the access circuits comprising:

a first transistor fabricated in a well formed in the semiconductor substrate that is isolated from the memory core wells, the first transistor having a first source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the externally accessible terminal and to the well, a second source-drain region fabricated in the well, and a gate electrode fabricated between the

first and second source-drain regions of the first transistor and coupled to receive a first select signal for the respective circuit well, the first transistor being fabricated in the well in a manner that causes a first diode to be formed between the source and drain regions of the first transistor;

a second transistor fabricated in a well formed in the semiconductor substrate that is isolated from the circuit wells, the second transistor having a first source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the second source-drain region of the first transistor, a second source-drain region fabricated in the well and being coupled to the well and to a respective one of the circuit wells, and a gate electrode fabricated between the first and second source-drain regions of the second transistor and coupled to receive a second select signal for the respective circuit well, the second transistor being fabricated in the well in a manner that causes a second diode to be formed between the source and drain regions of the second transistor, the second diode being coupled to the first diode in a back-to-back configuration;

a first control circuit for applying the first select signal to the gate electrode of the first transistor responsive to a first access signal; and

a second control circuit for applying the second select signal to the gate electrode of the second transistor responsive to a second access signal.

18. (Original) The access circuit of claim 17 wherein each of the first and second control circuits comprise:

a shunt transistor having a gate terminal and a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the externally accessible terminal and the gate electrode of a respective one of the first and second transistors; and

a control transistor having a gate terminal coupled to receive a respective one of the first and second access signals, the control transistor having a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the externally accessible terminal and the gate terminal of the shunt transistor.

19. (Original) The access circuit of claim 18 wherein each of the control circuits comprise a first switching transistor having a gate terminal coupled to receive the respective access signal, and a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between a supply voltage and the gate terminal of the control transistor.

20. (Original) The access circuit of claim 19, further comprising a second switching transistor having a gate terminal coupled to receive a compliment of the respective access signal, and a pair of source-drain terminals coupled between the supply voltage and the gate terminal of the shunt transistor.

21. (Original) The access circuit structure of claim 17 wherein the well in which the first transistor is fabricated is different from the well in which the second transistor is fabricated.

22. (Original) The access circuit of claim 21 wherein the substrate comprises a p-type substrate, and the wells in which the first and second transistors are fabricated and the memory core wells comprise respective n-type wells.

23-43. (Canceled)